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Peacebuilding Commission
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Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 23 June 2014, at 5 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Patriota ..... (Brazil)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.10 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **The Chair** said that the first working session held had touched upon critical policy gaps in intergovernmental action to ensure support for domestic resource mobilization in countries emerging from conflict and to combat illicit financial flows from those countries. A substantive discussion had addressed the policy space available for the international community to make a further positive impact on sustainable financial inflows for peacebuilding objectives and to develop coordinated multilateral policies to reduce the volume and negative impact of illicit financial flows. The participants had put forward concrete policy recommendations on domestic resource mobilization and revenue generation, with an emphasis on public finances management, institutions and capacity-building, natural resources management, and combating illicit financial flows. Regional and subregional approaches had been discussed, as well as the role of civil society. The discussions had been particularly helpful in placing policy options within the context of larger strategic issues.

2. At the second working session, policies and actions had been discussed to help create an enabling environment for a country's capacities to address critical political and socioeconomic challenges during the various stages of transition from conflict to stability and development, and to focus international attention on the country's specific needs during such transitions. Particular emphasis had been placed on financial sustainability and the need to conduct assessments over longer time spans than had been the case in the past. Political inclusiveness, capacity-building and education had been identified as crucial elements in the process. It was important to learn both from success stories such as Sierra Leone and from more difficult situations such as the Central African Republic and South Sudan. The Commission stood ready to follow up the discussions with practical policy recommendations to be placed before the General Assembly and the Security Council ahead of the comprehensive review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to be held in 2015.

Remarks by the President of the General Assembly

3. **Mr. Ashe** (Antigua and Barbuda), President of the General Assembly, said that, since its establishment in 2005, the Commission had demonstrated its value in preventing post-conflict countries from relapsing into conflict. The country-specific configurations provided platforms to foster dialogue and cooperation among all parties involved, including regional actors, major financial contributors, troop-contributing countries, financial institutions and the United Nations. At the country level, integrated peacebuilding strategies had led to improved dialogue among Governments, civil society and international organizations. National ownership was crucial to peacebuilding, and he commended the contributions of the Governments of post-conflict countries to successful peacebuilding strategies, the fruits of which were evident in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. The Commission had also been successful in strengthening its relationships with relevant organs and institutions. As a body whose mandate spanned the peace and security, development and human rights pillars of the United Nations, the Commission was in a unique position to advocate for holistic policy developments. The mandated 10-year review of United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2015 would provide Member States with a unique opportunity to explore ways of strengthening the capacities and authority of the Commission to provide advice and recommendations on policies that improved the lives of people in countries emerging from conflict.

4. The removal of a post-conflict country from the agenda of the Security Council was a benchmark worthy of celebration, but also a moment of risk. The departure of a Security Council-mandated mission from a post-conflict country meant the departure of technical, financial and political resources, as well as a decline in the attention given by the international community. One of the Commission's primary roles was to ensure that such countries would continue to receive the resources and attention they needed. The theme of the current session was extremely relevant to that mission. While the Commission's funding envelope provided much-needed short-term assistance, there was also a need for sustained long-term financial support. A critical element in that regard was the mobilization of domestic financial resources to allow States to exercise ownership, invest in infrastructure, deliver services, and reduce dependency on external resources. Illicit financial flows were a significant drain on those resources, and the international community, including the General Assembly, had an important role to play in establishing an international cooperation framework to stem them. There was also a

need for improved cooperation between national Governments and the international community, as well as regional actors, to avoid duplication and waste of resources.

Remarks by the President of the Security Council

5. **Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation), President of the Security Council, said that the annual session, through the broad-based engagement of a large number of actors, would help the Commission to produce useful policy recommendations and advice. Peacebuilding assistance should be based on the principle of national responsibility for the determination of peacebuilding priorities and their implementation. The current annual session was a first step towards fine-tuning the Commission's approach in changing the global policy environment in support of national peacebuilding efforts, and it was appropriate that it had been dedicated to resource mobilization. In particular, it had shed light on the potential role of the Commission as a platform for drawing greater attention to specific gaps and possible policy frameworks for the enhancement of resource flows. The Commission was uniquely placed to promote greater harmonization of the subregional, regional and international dimensions of post-conflict response.

6. The added value provided by the Commission to broader United Nations and regional efforts had been demonstrated by progress in support for peacebuilding in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. He encouraged continued close engagement in Burundi, but noted the need to reflect on lessons learned from the relapse of the Central African Republic and the earlier unconstitutional change of government in Guinea-Bissau. The Commission was also an important platform for the promotion of women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and in particular in election processes.

7. Continued informal bilateral interactions with the Security Council would help the Commission maximize its advisory role and share ideas that could subsequently be reflected in Security Council resolutions. The current annual session, in conjunction with the upcoming 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, would permit further examination of experience gained and provide renewed impetus to the Commission's continued evolution.

Closing remarks by the Chair

8. **The Chair** said that the first annual session of the Commission had demonstrated that body's potential to serve as an intergovernmental platform to gather, address and share perspectives, and to draw international attention to the challenges that faced post-conflict countries at different stages of the peacebuilding processes. Considerable progress had been made in addressing the issues of sustainability of resources and strengthening national capacities, and those issues would remain the focus of future deliberations He would share his report on the annual session with the Commission members, with a view to further discussion and the incorporation of possible policy recommendations into the Commission's next annual report to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

9. He declared the 2014 annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission closed.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.